

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Device for an carrying article into and from a dry container being characterized in comprising:

a stage that is positioned close to one end opening of [[a]] said dry container placed at a specific location and has a floor surface with a height approximately equal to a height of a floor surface of said dry container;

a stage-side displacement means that is capable of lifting up and down a pallet loaded with article to said floor surface of said stage and supporting said pallet in such a way as to allow said pallet to move horizontally while keeping said pallet lifted up to said floor surface of said stage; and

a container-side displacement means that is capable of lifting up and down said pallet to said floor surface of said dry container and supporting said pallet in such a way as to allow said pallet to move horizontally while keeping said pallet lifted up to said floor surface of said dry container;

wherein said stage-side displacement means is a first lifting/sliding device including a first sliding member that supports said pallet in such a way as to allow said pallet to move horizontally and a first lifting member that lifts said first sliding member, wherein said container-side displacement means is a second lifting/sliding device including a second sliding member that supports said pallet in such a way as to allow said pallet to move horizontally and a second lifting member that lifts said second sliding member, and wherein receiving said pallet while keeping said pallet lifted up to said floor

surface of said stage or said dry container is possible between said stage-side displacement means and said container-side displacement means.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Device for carrying said article into and from said dry container according to claim 1, further comprising an external force application means for ~~a pallet that causes~~ causing said pallet, which is supported in such a way as to be able to move horizontally by said stage-side displacement means, to move toward said dry container-side by applying an external force.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Device for carrying said article into and from said dry container according to claim 1, further comprising an external force application means for ~~a pallet that causes~~ causing said pallet, which is supported in such a way as to be able to move horizontally by said container-side displacement means, to move toward said stage-side by applying an external force.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) Device for carrying said article into and from said dry container according to according to claim 1, further comprising an external force application means that causes said container-side displacement means to move between said stage and said dry container by applying an external force to said container-side displacement means.

Claims 5 and 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Device for carrying said article into and from said dry container according to claim ~~5 or 6~~ 1, wherein at least one of said first and second sliding ~~member~~ members has multiple rollers arranged in parallel to each other.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Device for carrying said article into and from said dry container according to claim ~~5 or 6~~ 1, wherein at least one of said first and second lifting ~~member~~ members comprises an expanding member that is capable of pushing up a corresponding one of said first and second sliding ~~member~~ members by expanding itself when air is introduced.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): Device for carrying said article into and from said dry container according to claim 1, wherein said stage ~~has said floor surface with a height is~~ approximately equal to a said dry container floor height ~~of said floor surface of when~~ said dry container is installed on the ground.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): Device for carrying said article into and from said dry container according to claim 1, wherein said stage ~~has said floor surface with a height is~~ approximately equal to a said dry container floor height ~~of said floor surface of when~~ said dry container is mounted on a chassis of a truck.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): Device for carrying an article into and from a container, ~~according to claim 1~~ the device comprising:

a stage that is positioned close to one end opening of said container placed at a specific location and has a floor surface with a height approximately equal to a height of a floor surface of said container;

a stage-side displacement means that is capable of lifting up and down a pallet loaded with said article to said floor surface of said stage and supporting said pallet in such a way as to allow said pallet to move horizontally while keeping said pallet lifted up to said floor surface of said stage; and

a container-side displacement means that is capable of lifting up and down said pallet to said floor surface of said container and supporting said pallet in such a way as to allow said pallet to move horizontally while keeping said pallet lifted up to said floor surface of said container,

wherein receiving said pallet while keeping said pallet lifted up to said floor surface of said stage or said container is possible between said stage-side displacement means and said container-side displacement means, and wherein said pallet includes a pallet main body, a connecting means that connects said pallet main body with a pallet main body of other pallet(s), and a bottom open space, which is open in a carrying direction, underneath said pallet, and is capable of forming a pallet combination unit that approximately matches a size of a floor space of said container by connecting with other pallet(s) as needed.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method Method of introducing an article into a dry container using said device according to claim 1, in particular, a method for introducing article into container characterized in by:

placing a pallet preloaded with said article to be transported on a floor surface of a stage[[,]] of a device including:

said stage being positioned close to one end opening of the dry container placed at a specific location and has a floor surface with a height approximately equal to a height of a floor surface of the dry container;

a stage-side displacement means that is capable of lifting up and down said pallet loaded with said article to said floor surface of said stage and supporting said pallet in such a way as to allow said pallet to move horizontally while keeping said pallet lifted up to said floor surface of said stage; and

a container-side displacement means that is capable of lifting up and down said pallet to said floor surface of the dry container and supporting said pallet in such a way as to allow said pallet to move horizontally while keeping said pallet lifted up to said floor surface of the dry container;

wherein said stage-side displacement means is a first lifting/sliding device having a first sliding member that supports said pallet in such a way as to allow said pallet to move horizontally and a first lifting member that lifts said first sliding member, wherein said container-side displacement means is a second lifting-sliding device having a second

sliding member that supports said pallet in such away as to allow said pallet to move horizontally and a second lifting member that lifts said second sliding member, and wherein receiving said pallet while keeping said pallet lifted up to said floor surface of said stage or the dry container is possible between said stage-side displacement means and said container-side displacement means;

lifting up said pallet to said floor surface of said stage,
moving said pallet toward the dry [a] container placed at a specific location while keeping said pallet lifted up to said floor surface of said stage, and ~~finally~~
lowering said pallet to a said floor surface of ~~said~~ the dry container.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended, Withdrawn): The method ~~Method~~ for introducing said article into the dry container according to claim 12, wherein said pallet is moved while keeping said pallet lifted up to said floor surface of said stage by multiple rollers, which are arranged in parallel to each other and pushed upward when compressed air is introduced.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended, Withdrawn): The method ~~Method~~ for introducing said article into the dry container according to claim 12, wherein said pallet comprises a pallet main body and a connecting means so that said pallet main body can connect with a pallet main body of other pallet(s) thus allowing to form a pallet combination unit by connecting with other pallet(s) that approximately matches a size of a said floor space of

said the dry container, and said pallet combination unit is placed on said floor surface of said stage.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended, Withdrawn): The method of Method for introducing an article into a dry container according to claim 12, further comprising:

discharging said article from the dry container ~~using said device according to claim 1, in particular, a method for discharging article from container characterized in~~ including:

placing a the dry container at a specified position relative to a stage, lifting up a said pallet loaded with said article to a said floor surface of said the dry container,

moving said pallet toward said stage while keeping said pallet 1 lifted up to said floor surface of ~~said~~ the dry container, and ~~finally~~

lowering said pallet to a said floor surface of said stage.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended, Withdrawn): The method Method for discharging said article from the dry container according to claim 15, wherein said pallet is moved while keeping said pallet lifted up to said floor surface of ~~said~~ the dry container by multiple rollers, which are arranged in parallel to each other and pushed upward when compressed air is introduced.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended, Withdrawn): The method Method for discharging said article from the dry container according to claim 15, wherein said pallet comprises a pallet main body and a connecting means so that said pallet main body can connect with a pallet main body of other pallet(s) thus allowing to form a pallet combination unit by connecting with other pallet(s) that approximately matches a size of a floor space of ~~said~~ the dry container, and said pallet combination unit is placed on said floor surface of ~~said~~ the dry container.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): Pallet for carrying article, in particular, a pallet comprising a pallet main body, a connecting means that connects said pallet main body with a pallet main body of other pallet(s), and a bottom open space, which is open in a carrying direction, underneath said pallet, and is capable of forming a pallet combination unit that approximately matches a size of a floor surface of said container by connecting with other pallet(s) as needed.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): Pallet for carrying article according to claim 18 wherein said connecting means is provided in a corner of an article-carrying surface of said pallet main body.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn). Pallet for carrying article according to claim 18 wherein said bottom open space is a space for storing a lifting/sliding device for moving said pallet while keeping said pallet lifted up.